

SAMPLE BALLOT

CHARTER AMENDMENT QUESTION

"Shall the municipality approve the charter amendment reprinted below?"

YES ☐

NO ☐

6.15 Limitation on Budget Increase

A. Limitation on budget increase.

Recognizing that final tax rates for the City of Manchester are set by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration pursuant to RSA 21 J:35, I, the board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Manchester and the Manchester School District shall develop their annual budget proposals and shall act upon such proposals in accordance with the mandates of this section.

Override Provision. Budgetary restrictions described in any part of section 6.15 may be overridden upon a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the aldermen elected. Such override expires following adoption of the annual budget. Subsequent budgets or supplemental appropriations require additional two-thirds (2/3) override votes, or the limitations expressed in this section will apply.

1. In submitting their proposed budgets to the board of aldermen, the mayor and school district shall not propose total expenditures in an amount exceeding the budget established during the prior fiscal year increased by a factor equal to the change in the National Consumer Price Index - Urban as published by the United States Department of Labor for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of the budget adoption.
2. In establishing a combined municipal budget, the board of mayor and aldermen shall be allowed to assume an estimated property tax rate only in an amount not to exceed the tax rate established during the prior fiscal year increased by a factor equal to the change in the National Consumer Price Index - Urban as published by the United States Department of Labor for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of the budget adoption.

B. Exception to budget increase limitation.

Capital expenditures, and the total or any part of the principal and interest payments of any municipal bond, whether established for school or municipal purposes, may be excepted from being included in the expenditures that are subject to the prior limitation upon a two-third (2/3) vote of all the aldermen elected. The exception made under this section shall expire upon adoption of the budget for the next budget year, unless two-thirds (2/3) of all the aldermen elected, vote to renew the exception for the next budget year.

C. Budget limitation in a revaluation year.

When the board of mayor and aldermen accepts an increase in real estate values as the result of a city wide revaluation, the board of mayor and aldermen shall adhere to a maximum increase in real estate tax revenue as follows: The real estate taxes raised from prior budget year shall not be increased by a factor more than the change in the National Consumer Price Index - Urban as published by the United States Department of Labor for the calendar year immediately preceding budget adoption, then this figure shall be used in establishing the new municipal budget.

D. Budget limitation with annual changes in assessments.

When annual changes in real estate values occur as a result of State of New Hampshire assessing requirements, the board of mayor and aldermen shall adhere to a maximum increase in real estate tax revenues as follows:

1. The real estate taxes raised from the prior year shall not be increased by a factor of more than the change in the National Consumer Price Index - Urban as published by the United States Department of Labor for the calendar year immediately preceding budget adoption, plus real estate taxes calculated by applying the prior year real estate tax rate to the net increase in new construction. "Net increase in new construction" is defined as the total dollar value of building permits less total dollar value of demolition permits issued for the period of April 1-March 31 preceding budget adoption.

E. Total Expenditures.

Total expenditures for any given budget year shall not exceed the amount of funds reasonably calculated to be derived by the tax rate established pursuant to Paragraph A.2. herein, increased by the other revenues generated by the city.